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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Fishing Industry, Central Management for Inland Fishery

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1. "In 1949 the inland fishery industry of Poland underwent a reformation. A new organization was introduced to administer all fishing operations. This organization is called the Central Management for Inland Fishery (Centralny Zarzad Rybolostwa Skodla-Dowego), and has its headquarters in Warsaw at 13 Siewierska Street. It operates under the Ministry of State Estates. The Central Management for Inland Fishery (CZRS) is responsible for the following:

- (a) Administration of all lakes (and some small rivers not used for shipping), not including streams, which, so far, may be exploited by individual farmers of KPR's or kolchozes
- (b) Exploitation of lakes (divided into three branches):
 1. Fishing
 2. Exploitation of all lake potentialities, such as ice manufacture and utilization of water plants and brush growing around the lake
 3. Exploitation of meadows. This branch was introduced in 1953, and all groups are now obliged to own their own cattle etc.

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2. "The GZRS is not permitted to produce any of its products; they must be sent to the appropriate industrial branch.
3. "The management of the GZRS has formed so-called fishery teams, which consist of fishery farms with subordinate fishery groups. The groups are responsible for the practical exploitation of the waters; (a. zesp. rybacki; b. Gospodarskie Rybne; c. Grupa Rybacka).
4. "A director and a number of fishery experts supervise the fishery farm-teams, of which there are 62 in all of Poland. Several of them are attached to the Universities for Agriculture in Lodz and in Warsaw, training ichthyologists. The teams supervise breeding-houses, an ice pool, repair workshops for boats, and fishing gear (nets, etc.). Also attached to a team management is a special construction brigade for the maintenance of lakes in good fishing condition.
5. "The size of the area in which one team operates depends on the number of lakes in such an area. The largest area of a fishing area, in Poland, is the Gdysko district (Gdańsk district) in the Puck Bay. It has 14,000 hectares of water surface. The average area of the other teams is approximately 4,000 hectares of water surface.
6. "In 1950, when the first phase of the fishery economy being planned was established and underway, a new policy in operation of the fishery economy was introduced. The main aims of the policy may be mentioned as follows:
 - (a) Testing to determine what kinds of fish can be bred in different lakes and waters without any artificial way of water conductivity and the necessary conditions of water. These tests are not yet completed.
 - (b) The procurement of necessary equipment, such as breeding-houses, nets, workshops for boats, etc.

(Both the tests and investment in equipment are aimed at introducing a kind of specialized breeding of fish. It must be recognized, in fishery, that a long period of time is required before definite results can be obtained. For example, it requires 15 years to obtain a two-pound fish, and, on the average, at least five to seven years to obtain a fish of good weight.)

 - (c) Development of an increased quantity of fish for export. It is believed that the yield of fish should be 32 kilograms per hectare. In 1952 the per hectare yield was only 26 kilograms (averaged throughout Poland); in 1953 the aim was to obtain at least 28 kilograms per hectare.
7. "In an effort to obtain these results new investment credits were opened in 1953, to continue for the next two years. Approximately 50 million zlotys was invested in the fishery team groups last year (1952). Only 30% of this investment can be recovered from the yearly net income from the entire fishing operation. If the investment policy continues it is possible in a few years, when the capital has been repaid, that the GZRS expenses may be met by the returns of its own sources, and that some profit may even be shown. But, at present, the entire fishery operation is operating with deficits. All investments are covered by the central management of the GZRS, and in some cases purely credit investments are running as high as the total gross income of an individual fishery team.

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8. "To give an idea of the complications of the fishery farm team program, an example is used of the team near Pyrzyce 'Lipiany' [the Polish Gazetteer refers from Pyrzyce to Pyritz, and from Lipiany to Lippstone, but 'Lipiany' apparently refers, in this report, to a specific fishery farm]. The fishery farm in reference is 'Lipiany'; it belongs to a rather large team which covers 7500 hectares. Besides 'Lipiany', this team has under it the following fishery farms: 'Mysliborz', 'Barnowko', 'Bania' [or 'Banla'], and 'Moryn'. 'Moryn' is on the Odra River. The team stretches over 80 kilometers, and controls the dispersed lakes in this area. In order to maintain contact throughout the area, the team is supplied with a large motor-boat. Of all employed by this team, only the management group and the heads of the individual farms are on a regular salary. Others, fishermen, etc., are paid hourly wages or are paid on a basis of kilograms of fish caught. (All work connected with preparatory functions is paid hourly). Payment for fish caught varies from 25 groszy per kilogram to 3 zlotys per kilogram of first category fish [sic]. This complex system of payment introduced into the area an enormous bureaucratic apparatus. Payment categories are so complicated that different wages exist for preparation of nets, and time en route to catch. The managers of the fish farms function, therefore, more as bookkeepers than managers. A system of payment in kind (fish, corn, milk, etc.) existed in addition to the regular wages received by fishermen. To complicate this even more, an obligatory repayment was initiated whereby the fishermen were permitted to purchase the 'in kind' goods at much lower cost than the regular market price [sic].
9. "Fishery farm teams are not permitted to market their fish. A monopoly for purchase of all fish from the teams is held by Centrala Rybna, which deals in all sorts of fish including sea fish. In addition, Centrala Rybna is in the reprocessing business, and has large canneries, cooling-houses, etc. These installations are located, principally, in harbor areas such as: Szczecin, Gdansk, Gdynia, etc.
10. "The minimum prices, now obligatory, in Poland for fish are as follows. (Centrala Rybna pays these prices for fishery team output):
- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| eel | 18 zl per kg |
| perch | 15 zl per kg |
| ziga | 9 zl per kg |
| carp | 11.5 zl per kg |
| | 9 zl per kg |
| pike | 11.5 zl per kg |
| tench | 11.5 zl per kg |
| licht | 5.5 zl per kg |
| crawfish | 11.5 zl per kg |
11. "The black market prices for all the above fish are approximately 50% lower; most of the fish listed above belong to export fish categories. The majority of fish exports go to Czechoslovakia or the Soviet Union or Germany.
12. "Apart from this large bureaucratic machinery of the CZRS, there is a special association, called the 'amateur fishermen', in Poland whose members are entitled to catch fish. Almost anyone can buy a membership card which costs 86 zlotys yearly. The association receives permission for its members to fish in specifically defined places. These places may be used by association members only for fishing, on the condition that they fish from the shore. They are not permitted to fish from boats, etc."

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